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Israeli Examines U.N. File on Waldheim

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UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., April 9 — An Israeli diplomat examined a secret United Nations file on Kurt Waldheim today and said afterward that there was "clear need for further comprehensive investigation" of Mr. Waldheim's war record.

The Israeli diplomat, Benjamin Netanyahu, who is his country's delegate to the United Nations, said copies of the file on the former Secretary General would be sent immediately to Israel for detailed study.

The file, compiled by the United Nations War Crimes Commission, was made available today to Mr. Netanyahu and Karl Fischer, the chief Austrian delegate, after formal requests from their Governments to Secretary General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar.

"On the basis of this file, there is no way this matter can be put to rest," Mr. Netanyahu said in an interview after spending more than an hour at 325 Park Avenue South, an office building in lower Manhattan where the file has been kept. "There is clear need for further comprehensive investigation."

Confidentiality Observed

Under an agreement of confidentiality with the United Nations, neither delegate would comment on the specific contents of the file.

Mr. Fischer said in an interview that he had not read the document itself. He added that both the file and documents given to him by the World Jewish Congress would be delivered Thursday to Austria's President, Rudolf Kirchschläger. Mr. Waldheim, who has denied any involvement with war crimes, is running for the Austrian presidency.

"If the President and Mr. Waldheim think that the public needs to be informed in order to clear the whole mess up, they will ask Mr. Pérez de Cuéllar that the request of confidentiality should be lifted," said Mr. Fischer.

United Nations officials gave the Israeli and Austrian officials a four-page file, typewritten and in English, on Mr. Waldheim.

The file states that Mr. Waldheim served as a staff intelligence officer from April 1944 to May 1945 with Army Group E, the German Army force that occupied Yugoslavia and other Balkan countries and waged a campaign against partisan forces, according to sources familiar with the file.

It is one of 40,000 sealed files on war criminals, suspects and witnesses compiled by the 17-member-nation commission. Operating in London from 1943 to 1948, the commission was to collect evidence of war crimes from the governments of its members, investigate the charges and inform the governments concerned in cases "where the material available appeared to disclose a prima facie case."

Was on 'Wanted' List

Mr. Waldheim's name was put on a "wanted" list compiled by the commission's committee on facts and evidence, according to evidence in the file. The committee determined "whether there appeared to be sufficient evidence to warrant the listing of the persons charged as war criminals in order that they might be detained and prosecuted by the member governments," according to an official history of the commission.

Mr. Waldheim's file was listed as "79/724" in April 1948, meaning he was the 724th person put on the 79th list. Mr. Waldheim was accused of "murder, putting to death of hostages," these sources said, and was given an "A" listing, which the history of the commission said "was reserved for those war criminals against whom the committee believed a clear prima facie case had been presented and whom the committee believed should be delivered up for trial." Mr. Waldheim's commanding officer was executed for war crimes in 1947.

The sources added that his file was based on documents provided by the Yugoslav War Crimes Commission, which said Mr. Waldheim was wanted

as a war criminal after World War II in connection with "murder, slaughter, shooting of hostages and ravaging of property by burning of settlements."

Mr. Waldheim was never detained, or prosecuted as a war criminal. He said in Vienna today that allegations that he is hiding a Nazi past would not force him out of the presidential campaign.

The file does not include the original material from Yugoslavia.